

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6 through 8, 11, 13, and 15 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
charging means, to which a voltage including an AC voltage is applied, for charging the image bearing member;
control means for controlling a peak-to-peak voltage of the AC voltage;
developing means for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on the image bearing member with a developer; and
residual charge eliminating means for conducting charge elimination on the image bearing member,
wherein the control means controls the peak-to-peak voltage of the AC voltage which is applied to the charging means during an image forming period, ~~period~~ on the basis of both an AC current flowing when applying the AC voltage having a voltage level of ~~including~~ the peak-to-peak voltage that is ~~twice or~~ less than a discharge start voltage V_{th} of the image bearing member to the charging means during a non-image forming period and another AC current flowing when applying the AC voltage having a voltage level of the peak-to-peak voltage that is equal to or more than twice the discharge start voltage V_{th} of the image bearing member to the charging means during a non-image forming period, and

wherein the residual charge eliminating means conducts charge elimination on an area on the image bearing member that passes through a charging position of the charging means when applying the AC voltage having a voltage level of including the peak-to-peak voltage that is equal to twice or less than the discharge start voltage V_{th} of the image bearing member to the charging means.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, [[2,]] wherein when applying the AC voltage including the peak-to-peak voltage that is equal to twice or more than twice the discharge start voltage V_{th} to the charging means during the non-image forming period, a voltage level ~~value~~ of a DC voltage applied to the charging means is OV.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim I, wherein while the area on the image bearing member is in a developing position of the developing means, a voltage of such a level that a toner of the developer is not adhered to the image bearing member from the developing means, is applied to the developing means.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim I, wherein while the area on the image bearing member is in a developing position of the developing means, a voltage applied to the developing means is OV.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein while the area on the image bearing member and an area on the image bearing member that is charged by the charging means when the AC voltage having a voltage level of including the peak-to-peak voltage that is equal to twice or larger than twice the discharge start voltage V_{th} of the image bearing member is applied to the charging means during the non-image forming period, are in a developing position of the developing means, a voltage applied to the developing means is fixed.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein while the area on the image bearing member and an area on the image bearing member that is charged by the charging means when the AC voltage having a voltage level of including the peak-to-peak voltage that is equal to twice or larger than twice the discharge start voltage V_{th} of the image bearing member is applied to the charging means during the non-image forming period, are in a developing position of the developing means, a voltage applied to the developing means is OV.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peak-to-peak voltage of the AC voltage which is applied to the charging means during the image forming period is equal to twice or larger than twice V_{th} .

9. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the non-image forming period is a preparatory rotation period of the image bearing member before executing an image formation.

10. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the residual charge eliminating means is electrostatic latent image forming means for forming an electrostatic latent image on a surface of the image bearing member that is charged by the charging means.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the image bearing member is a photosensitive member, and

wherein the residual charge eliminating means is exposure means for conducting exposure on the image bearing member in order to form the electrostatic latent image on the surface of the image bearing member that is charged by the charging means.

12. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the residual charge eliminating means conducts charge elimination on the image bearing member on a downstream side of the charging means and an upstream side of the developing means with respect to a moving direction of the image bearing member.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the developing means also serves ~~doubles~~ as cleaning means for collecting the developer remaining on a surface of the image bearing member.

14. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transferring means for transferring, onto a material to be transferred, an image that is formed on the image bearing member with the developer.

15. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the transferring means also serves ~~doubles~~ as cleaning means for collecting the developer remaining on a surface of the image bearing member.

16. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising developer charging quantity control means, disposed further upstream than the charging means and further downstream than the transferring means with respect to the moving direction of the image bearing member, for applying a DC voltage in order to charge a residual developer remaining on the image bearing member to a normal polarity of the developer.

17. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charging means is brought into contact with the image bearing member to charge the image bearing member.

18. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charging means conducts charging by causing discharge between the charging means and the image bearing member.

19. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the developing means performs developing by bringing the developer on the developing means into contact with the image bearing member.